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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 18, 2014

TAHOE ROOM ** 202 MIRA LOMA DRIVE, OROVILLE

I. Preliminary Items

A. Call to Order

Linda called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

B. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Brian Wong (large restaurant), Dean McKelvey (small market), Jeremy Wolfe (mobile food facility), Adam Urteago (small restaurant), Peter Bridge (citizen-at-large), Aaron Weigel (large market), and Linda Baker (school nutrition) were present.

Heather Hacking (news media), Richard Coon (local food), Stephen Kenny (community event organizer) were absent.

[A quorum was established.](#)

C. Introduction of Guests

Duane O'Donnell, Rhonda Garcia, Sherry Cook, and Susan Strong attended as guests. Brad Banner, Elaine McSpadden, and Amanda Avelar attended the meeting on behalf of the Public Health Department.

D. Minutes from Previous Meeting

[Adam made a motion to approve the January 20, 2014 minutes as written. Peter seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.](#)

E. Public Comment

[None.](#)

II. Informational Non-Action Items

A. Susan Strong, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Food and Drug Branch

1. Susan introduced herself to the group. She is one of only two staff at CDPH that provides technical assistance for the entire state's retail food regulatory program under the California Retail Food Code (Cal Code). She has 36 years of experience in the retail food program

2. Susan distributed a handout that included contact information for key personnel at the CDPH Food and Drug Branch and a template for submitting issues to the California Retail Food Safety Coalition (CRFSC) for con-

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sideration as changes to Cal Code. She explained that issues to be considered by CRFSC need to be sent to her and would then be reviewed by the Steering Committee before being forwarded to one of three subcommittees. Subcommittee A reviews most food code issues and does a side-by-side comparison with the FDA Model Food Code. Subcommittee B reviews issues not covered by Subcommittee A, including issues related to mobile food facilities and structural requirements for food facilities. Subcommittee C develops guidance documents. The Coalition itself meets once or twice a year. Certain entities in CRFSC such as CDPH, the California Restaurant Association, and the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health (among others) have veto power over new regulation put forward by the Coalition.

3. Homemade Food Act

Susan explained that the Homemade Food Act is extremely time consuming for her due to the number of calls she receives. One of the major problems she has encountered is that foods are being produced and sold that do not fall within the allowed food categories.

4. New Legislation

Susan reported on two issues that might be addressed in the future. One concerns regulation of Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs). The other concerns herd-shares and has been described by advocates as the “Family Cow” issue where neighbors share ownership of one of more cows and enjoy the raw milk produced by the cows that own in part. Discussion is currently underway concerning how many cows could be owned cooperatively in a herd-share dairy and how the milk product could be traced back to the dairy in case of a foodborne illness outbreak.

5. Multi-Agency Responsibilities

There are a variety of state and federal agencies that have different roles in the regulatory oversight of food facilities. The number of agencies and their differing roles has resulted in confusion among business owners, regulators, and the public. Susan said that she will email Brad a matrix of agency responsibilities and Brad will forward the matrix to committee members.

B. Placarding Implementation

1. Brad distributed the most recent draft of a new ordinance (Butte County Code 18B) that would require the posting of placards.
2. Peter wanted to make sure that if a facility received a red placard and corrected the violations that led to closure, that the department would re-inspect within 24 hours. Brad responded that the 24 hour re-

inspection is one of the fundamental elements of the placarding program.

3. Dean, Brian, and Adam commented on the proposed fines for infractions of violations of the proposed code and recommended that the fine for the first violation be kept as shown in the draft ordinance, but the fines for the second and third violations be increased so that the enforcement action would be taken seriously.

C. Permit Renewal Procedure

Brad reported that about 20 facilities still have not paid their fees to be permitted for 2014 and would be posted today, giving the facilities an additional 24 hours to pay or face closure.

III. **Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting**

The group agreed to meet after the placarding ordinance is taken before the Board of Supervisors or no later than two months from the current date. The meeting will be scheduled for a Tuesday in Oroville, 9-11 a.m.

IV. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Minutes provided by Brad Banner, Environmental Health Director